

10 good reasons for a direct link between Germany and Scandinavia under the Fehmarnbelt

1. A faster and shorter link

The Fehmarnbelt link will make the journey between Denmark and Germany and between Scandinavia and Central Europe faster and shorter. A tunnel will not be affected by bad weather as often happens with journeys across bridges and with ferry crossings. What's more, there will always be space. The journey will only take 10 minutes by car and 7 minutes by train.

2. Growth potential for a dynamic Europe

The Fehmarnbelt tunnel will be the shortest and fastest direct route between Scandinavia and Central Europe. Trade relations between Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland will be strengthened on the one side of the Fehmarnbelt and throughout Germany on the other. Schleswig-Holstein will particularly benefit from the new trading opportunities. Scandinavia will also gain better access to its most important markets south of the Danish border.

3. New markets and new tourism opportunities

Tourism is an important industry in all areas of the Fehmarnbelt region. The main tourist areas, however, are in the Capital Region of Denmark, in the Hamburg area and along the Schleswig-Holstein coastline. The Fehmarnbelt tunnel is expected to boost tourism throughout the entire region. For Scandinavians, East Holstein, with its many tourist attractions, will only be a short car or train journey away.

4. A new region will emerge

The fixed link across the Fehmarnbelt will be more than just a link between Denmark and Germany. It will be the backbone of transport in a new European region. It will offer new growth opportunities for tourism, culture and sport. New opportunities will emerge on the axis between Helsingborg and Hamburg for cross-border partnerships, the exchange of ideas and much closer co-operation between the almost nine million people in a developing Fehmarnbelt region. In many ways, the region will be able to be benchmarked with other parts of the world, i.e. with regard to tourism and scientific research.

5. New jobs and educational opportunities

The Fehmarnbelt project will create thousands of jobs and several hundred apprenticeships. Up to 3-4,000 people per year will be directly employed in building the Fehmarnbelt tunnel during the construction period. Every employee on the project will be matched by one position with the sub-contractors. When the tunnel is finished, approximately 300 people will be employed to operate the tunnel.

All contractors on the Fehmarnbelt project will be subject to social clauses, which will create 500 apprenticeships. 20 are already up and running.

6. New opportunities for rail transport

When the Fehmarnbelt tunnel is completed, the journey by train between Copenhagen and Hamburg will take only two and a half hours with no stops compared to over four and a half hours today. With stops at a number of stations on Zealand, Lolland-Falster and in Holstein on the German side, the

journey time will be under three hours. There will also be many new and faster train links between regional stations, which will be of particular benefit to commuters.

7. A positive CO2 effect

The Fehmarnbelt link will deliver greener transport and will enable more freight to be transported by rail. Cars and trains will save both kilometres and time, which will benefit the environment. Denmark is thus promoting green freight traffic and is actively playing its part in ensuring that the Fehmarnbelt tunnel will be an important infrastructure project in Europe. So far, the Fehmarnbelt project has received the maximum EU support of 50 per cent of the project costs and 30 per cent for the advance activities, corresponding to DKK 1.5 billion.

8. Greater cultural exchange between Denmark and Germany

The Fehmarnbelt link will offer new opportunities for cross-border collaboration. 8 million people and hundreds of thousands of companies will be brought closer together. Businesses will acquire new markets and employees will have more job opportunities. It will also be easier for tourists to visit their neighbours on the other side of the Fehmarnbelt and students will gain faster access to new educational opportunities.

9. Upgrading of regional links

The Fehmarnbelt link will improve public transport. Train passengers will benefit from many more trains between the Øresund region and northern Germany and the journey time will be almost halved. Commuters in East Zealand, Lolland and Falster will save several hours per week to and from work or their place of study.

Freight trains between Copenhagen and Hamburg, which are currently forced to take a 160 km detour across Funen and Jutland, will be able to take the direct and shortest route. This will provide greater capacity for more passenger trains between the different regions of Denmark.

10. Closes a gap in the European transport network

The EU is expected to provide a significant amount of grant support for the Fehmarnbelt project because the Fehmarnbelt tunnel is an important element in the European transport network of the future.

Three out of four future users of the Fehmarnbelt tunnel will be Swedes, Germans and others travelling from neighbouring countries. Consequently, they will pay for most of the project.